

Iron County Register.

BY ELI D. AKE.

OUR GOD, OUR COUNTRY, AND TRUTH.

TERMS—\$1.50 a Year, in Advance

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MIDIAN CHAPTER, No. 71, R. A., meets on the first and third Tuesdays in every month, at 7 o'clock p. m., in the Masonic Hall, Ironton.
STAR OF THE WEST LODGE, No. 133, A. F. & A. M., meets in Masonic Hall, Ironton, on the Saturday of or preceding the full moon in each month.
MOSAIC LODGE, No. 351, A. F. & A. M., meets in the Masonic Hall, Cross Roads, on the Saturday of or preceding the full moon in each month.
IRON LODGE, No. 107, I. O. O. F., meets every Monday evening, at 8:30, in Ironton.
PINE LODGE, No. 330, I. O. O. F., meets every Thursday evening, in Masonic Hall, Cross Roads.
CROCKET COURT is held on the Fourth Monday in October and April.
COUNTY COURT convenes on the First Monday of March, June, September and December.
PROBATE COURT is held on the First Monday in February, May, August and November.

Churches.

HIGH MASS and Sermon at Arcadia College every Sunday at 8 o'clock a. m. Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5 o'clock p. m. Mass and Sermon at Pilot Knob Catholic Church at 10:30 o'clock a. m. Sunday School for children at 1:30 o'clock p. m.
M. E. CHURCH, Cor. Reynolds and Mountain streets, Ironton. J. MARLATT, Pastor. Religious Services, Second and Fourth Sundays in each month. Sabbath School every Sunday morning, at 10 o'clock.

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Real Estate Agent and Conveyancer.

PROMPT attention given to buying, selling, and renting lands and houses; also, to preparing taxes in all counties in Southeast Missouri. Valuable mineral and farming lands for sale or lease. 108

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WITH
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Millinery Parlor,
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WILL attend to all kinds of legal business with care and promptness. 109

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Late Judge 10th Circuit, Pres. Att. Gen. Co.
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Attorneys at Law
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PAYS prompt attention to collections, taking depositions, paying taxes in all counties in Southeast Missouri; to settlements of estate and of partnership accounts, business at the Land Office, purchase and sale of mineral lands, and all legal business entrusted to his care. Examination of land titles and conveying a specialty.

DR. A. S. PRINCE,
DENTIST,
Ironton, Missouri.
TENDERS his professional services to the people of this section. He will be found at all times at his office, and will give prompt attention to the demands of his patrons.

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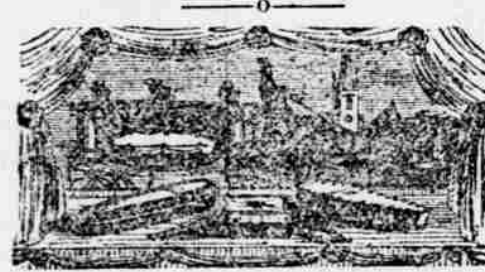
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COUNTRY PRODUCE

Bought and Sold at Market Rates

"Farmer" Has His Say.

Ed. Register.—The REGISTER came in this evening, "thunder tones" and all; and I see that you have had killing frosts, while with us, away up here in the frigid north, butter-beans are green, tomato vines four feet high, and violets and blue bells blooming; while pastures are a glossy green, and stock not likely to need feeding before Christmas.

The dearest and dryest things are disappointed candidates, and there are lots of them, for in this county there were three county tickets and a fair sprinkling of bolting and independent candidates. Scratching was the order of the day; and judges of election were kept up all night counting ballots that but for the scratching and uncounted chirography might have been listed in a few hours. The results give no idea of the scratching and general disregard of party lines and tickets. The Sheriff on the Republican ticket was elected; and the rest are Democrats. There were several blanks on the Republican ticket, and a couple of Democrats came out for the places, but at this writing I hear they were left.

During the canvass there was a great deal of excitement among the candidates but very little among the voters. Large posters were to be seen everywhere, and every back district school house rang with the clarion notes of promised reforms and big things to come. Its all over now and we can begin to get things in shape for the next earthquake.

Our crops this year are not panning out as we could wish; and the more we have to do with them the more we find this out. Wheat was the best, but it grew straw out of proportion to the grain—though the grain was mostly good. Poor as the price remains it is noticeable that a much larger area has been sown than ever before; for if there is no money in this crop there is none for us. Corn was scarce during the summer, and hogs became thin; but as soon as corn got well in the dough it was fed freely to make up for lost time, and the result was to fill the air with buzzards who were after defunct porkers. They are still here; and pork is not only going down in price but down with cholera at the same time. When hogs are fat the trick is to rush them on the market as soon as they begin to die; but this year they went with such a skip and a jump, for some folks, that this little game would not work. But fowls were more considerate, and made such slow haste to die that many could be shipped before their gills got too white. Now you may say that these are scurvy tricks; but you must remember that this is a money-making age, and it's a dead loss to let pigs and chickens die on "our hands" just for the want of taking to market before their livers get too pale and soft.

I have just learned that Riggs, an old personal friend, has been elected to Congress from this district. He was the regular Democratic nominee, and had Singleton, bolter, and the Rev. Phillip N. Minear, Prohibition candidate, as opponents. Riggs was my choice; but I must admit that but for a division of the vote between Singleton and Minear Riggs would have been defeated. Indeed, I believe Minear run to split Singleton's vote and to elect an old friend from boyhood—Riggs.

SCOTT CO., Ill., Nov. 12, 1882.

Robbing in Maine.

John Q. Mason, a drover of Albany, was waylaid one evening recently near Lynnhville, Maine, by a robber, who said familiarly: "Give me a ride, John." He then threw pepper in Mason's eyes and an accomplice bound his arms and relieved him of \$106 and a watch.

Freeman Evans, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, the other night had fifty dollars in his possession, which as he entered his kitchen he laid on the table. A few minutes afterward he stepped out of doors, leaving his wife sitting by the table. Scarcely had he left when a man entered the room and pressing his hand violently upon the woman's mouth to prevent her from giving the alarm, remarked: "I want this," and reaching across the table seized the money, despite her desperate struggles. The robber then made good his escape.

At noon the other day an old lady sat half asleep in the ladies room of the Grand Trunk passenger station in Lewiston, Maine. A strange man came in. He thrust his hands in his pants pockets, probed his vest pockets and explored his coat-tail pockets. He slapped his hand on his leg, assumed a look of despair and exclaimed: "I've left my key at home, but I must get in there somehow!" He pulled an iron

implement out of one pocket and began work on the ticket window. After prying awhile it yielded to his efforts and he got into the ticket office. He rummaged round a short while and then coolly walked out. The baggage-master discovered that the room had been entered a few minutes afterward. The fellow had secured \$45 in money, but had not disturbed the tickets. The ticket-seller was at dinner at the time of the robbery. This was one of the coolest robberies on record.

How Mrs. Perry Rode Through Marblehead.

One thousand able-bodied men of quaint old Marblehead, Mass., turned out on the night of the 13th inst. to witness the payment of an election wager. Marblehead gave the biggest plurality for Butler of any town in the State—585 out of a total population of 1,500—yet Mrs. Martha Chapman had the temerity to make a wager against Butler's election with Mrs. Hannah Perry. On the night above mentioned the wager was paid. Mrs. Perry sat as gracefully as circumstances would allow in a wheelbarrow gayly decorated with bunting and Chinese lanterns, and, preceded by another lady who bore a banner on which beneath a life-like picture of a fighting cock was inscribed, "13,000 Clean Sweep," was wheeled by Mrs. Chapman from her residence on Front street, through State street to the square, and around the Town Hall and back, amid the shouts and laughter of the spectators.

Short Stories About Bears.

CATCHING A BEAR WITH SALT. One night recently two teamsters camped near the timber above Boulder, Col., and one went out to hunt for game while the other remained at the camp to make bread. As the latter was getting out the sack of salt a cinnamon bear approached, and he held a handful out which the bear immediately licked clean—then asked for more. The third handful was being appreciated when the other man returned, who took the trace chains and some ropes and bound the bear tightly. His bear-ship stood the tying with good humor, and was placed in the wagon and taken to Halsey the next day.

THE COLLEGE BOYS AND THE BEAR. Seven university graduates at Cheyenne went out hunting the other day, and fell in with bigger game than they were looking for. After they had been hunting some time they succeeded in bringing down a fine elk, and while engaged in dressing it they were startled by a noise in their rear, and on looking around beheld a huge bear close upon them. Their rifles being several yards away, they were unable to shoot him before he attacked them. A lively struggle ensued, in which the boys were cuffed around promiscuously. They finally succeeded in reaching their guns, and lodged several bullets in the bear, and then, by the help of knives and clubs, made an end of him.

A BAD PLACE FOR BEARS.

The Wood River Times says that, during the absence of her husband the other day, Mrs. Marston was doing the family washing, when she heard a great noise among the pigs in the yard. Opening the door, she saw a large black bear trying to walk off with one of the pigs. The other pigs were out of the pen and scattered in every direction, and two large dogs that had been out on several bear hunts stood at a safe distance, perfectly cowed. Mrs. Marston rushed for the boiler of scalding water, which she emptied upon the head of the bear while it was trying to retain its hold on the pig. Her daughter attacked the bear with an ax, and in five minutes the bear was dead, with a dozen deep gashes in its head, its hide nearly peeled off, both of its eyes scalded and closed and the dogs holding to it.

A TOUGH BEAR STORY.

The Chatham World says that Geo. Travers, while going through the woods to his home in Douglasfield, N. B., the other evening, was attacked by a very large bear; and having no other weapon than a bottle of paraffine oil, he struck the bear and broke the bottle of oil over him. The bear then sprang on him and commenced hugging him, when George had the presence of mind to light a match and set fire to him. In an instant old Bruin was all in a blaze and let go of him, and in less than five minutes was all consumed but the head and shoulders. George then commenced to carry water in his hat to quench the fire to save the snout, so as to get the bounty. If Mr. Travers had

never before had any notable adventures with bears, some people might feel inclined to doubt the truth of the recital of the above little incident; but when it is remembered that it was he who was recently reported as having rode home with two dead cubs and a live bear, a paw clasped in each hand, it will be seen that there is nothing to be surprised at in this his latest achievement.

Titles to Lands in Missouri.

In May last in response to an inquiry regarding his views on the bill to quiet titles to lands in Missouri, entered under the Graduation Act, Secretary Teller addressed to Senator Cockrell a letter, of which the following are the more important paragraphs:

If the grantees under such Government patents were capable of taking such title, and subsequently conveyed the same to innocent holders for value, the Government, in my opinion, must be without remedy, and the title must remain in such innocent holders. If, on the other hand, such fraudulent entries were the use of fictitious names and no persons took title, the forged and spurious conveyance in the name of such fictitious person cannot convey title, and the title is still in the United States, although the lapse of time since such fraudulent entry may be so great that the Government ought not in justice and right now to attempt to hold such lands, and in equity the holder may be as well entitled to the protection of the Government as if the title had vested in the supposed grantees of the Government. If the frauds were practiced, they were doubtless with the connivance and by the assistance of the Government officials, and if the Government allowed such entries to stand until the people supposed such entries to be valid purchases for value, any considerable portion of such lands without notice and good faith, it is not proper that the Government now call in question its own grant except on the most convincing proof of the fraud in the original entry and clear proof that the present holder had either actual or constructive notice of such fraud.

The bill in question recognizes the principle I have announced. The bill, however, provides that in any suit, &c., the burden of proof shall be on the defendant. This I think is wrong. If the defendant has a chain of title connecting himself with the Government title, the presumption ought to be that he holds as an innocent purchaser, and the burden of proof should be on the Government if it attacks his title. A Government patent ought to be presumed to be in the original patentee, and the regular chain of title to defendant ought to raise the presumption of his right. The Government ought not to succeed until it should have established, first, the fraudulent entry, and secondly, the defendant's participation therein, or his guilty knowledge thereof, before he made such purchase. Therefore, I think the bill should be amended by striking out all after the word "purchase" in the twenty-fifth line of section one.

I cannot refrain from saying that I think it is a great mistake on the part of the Government to attempt to unsettle titles emanating from itself that have been supposed for many years by the people to have been granted in accordance with law. Certainly it is an essential to a well organized and prosperous community, and no greater wrong can be perpetrated on the people than to attack their title by an indiscriminate raid on a class of entries without reference to the facts in each case. While it is the duty of the Government officials to protect the Government against frauds of the character complained of, it is equally their duty to see that the people are not wronged on the Government land, or land recently conveyed by the Government, are not unnecessarily harassed by the Government with reference to the titles, and they should not be held responsible for irregularities or even frauds of which they could not have known and for which they are in no wise responsible. I therefore do not hesitate to say I shall be pleased to see the bill passed, with the amendment I have suggested, and I trust it may pass without unnecessary delay.

The above letter was written by Secretary Teller after having received the following from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, McFarland:

I am in receipt, by your reference, of a letter from Hon. F. M. Cockrell, transmitting copies of Senate Bill No. 1,715 to quiet title to lands in Missouri entered under the Graduation Act, and have the honor to report as follows:

On February 9 last, in a report made to the department, I recommended that suits be brought to set aside patents for lands fraudulently entered in Missouri under the Graduation Act in cases where the title still remains in the patentees, unclaimed by them or their representatives, and also in cases where conveyances have been attempted to be made through forged deeds except where the lands should be in possession of innocent purchasers. In such cases I do not think it good public policy, nor just to bona fide purchasers without notice of fraud, for the Government to insist upon its own rights and equities regardless of the equities of its citizens whose titles were defective through no fault of their own. Neither did I think it expedient to attempt to disturb titles that were in the hands of bona fide purchasers of tax sales (that had been legally transferred by the patentees and were held by innocent parties).

The bill submitted by Mr. Cockrell proposes to confirm all entries where the titles have been conveyed to innocent purchasers. This proposition is in the line of the foregoing views and meets with my concurrence. Some of the provisions of the Senate bill are, however, not wholly free from doubt as to their expedience or effect. By the first provision it is made a condition to the confirmation that the conveyances under which innocent purchasers' claim, when other than a judicial sale for taxes shall have been recorded in the public records of the proper county prior to January 1, 1880, and where the title is claimed under a tax sale, the transfer shall have been put on record prior to April 1, 1882. In the second provision, the condition upon which the United States relinquishes its title to innocent purchasers under fraudulent conveyances is that the conveyances shall have been recorded prior to January 1, 1875. I am not informed of the reasons for these distinctions. The State had the same notice and the purchasers from the State at tax sale had the same notice of the defective titles that other parties had, and I do not perceive why there should be discrimination in the different classes of cases. It would appear to me that a more uniform rule in respect of time of recording titles would be advantageous in the execution of the law.

The third proviso puts the burden of proof upon claimants to show that they are innocent purchasers for value. I can perceive an advantage in this proviso in this case, and perhaps no practical hardship to the parties would result therefrom, since the evidence upon which the issue would be determined must necessarily be largely in their own possession; but I direct your attention to this proviso as changing the usual rule of law without, however, expressing an opinion upon its advisability.